

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**
Shinji Ishida et al.)
Application No.: 10/562,829) Group Art Unit: 3767
Filed: December 29, 2005) Examiner: Bradley James Osinski
For: TUBE CLAMP APPARATUS AND) Confirmation No.: 6473
TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS)

FOURTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of the document cited is enclosed.

The document is being submitted after a first Office Action on the merits but prior to the closing of prosecution, therefore under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), a statement is enclosed.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The listed document is the European Office Action dated January 27, 2010 issued in the corresponding European Patent Application No. 04745516.7-1253. The references cited therein, EP0778123A2 and JP04161579A, were already

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submitted in the May 4, 2009 Second Information Disclosure Statement and considered by the Examiner in the July 22, 2009 Office Action. Those references are therefore not included with this Information Disclosure Statement.

To assist the Examiner, the document is listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: April 13, 2010

By: /Peter T. deVore/
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32814

Peter T. deVore
Registration No. 60361

Customer No. 21839
703 836 6620